

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claim 40, leaves claims 1-39 and 41 unchanged, and cancels claims 42. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-41.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 2 of the Office Action that claims 1-39 are allowed.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 2 of the Office Action that claim 42 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 42 was inserted in claim 40 which is the base claim of claim 42. Therefore claim 40 is now allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Since claim 41 depends from amended claim 40 which now contains the allowable subject matter, claim 41 is now allowable being that it now depends on allowable base claim 40.

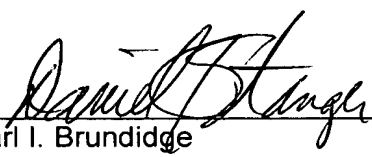
Claims 40 and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Pare (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,719). As indicated above claim 40 was amended to include the subject matter of claim 42 and as such is now allowable over the prior art of record including Pare. Claim 41 depends on claim 40 and is also now allowable over the prior art of record including Pare. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-41 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.39847X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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